



Carshalton High School for Girls

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026

Dates for your diary

Week A

12.10.26 - Year 11 exams begin

13.10.26 - Sixth form Geography trip

15.10.26 - Year 13 Martin Guerre trip

16.10.26 - Last day of half term. Wear a pink accessory day.

Week B

02.11.26 - Back to school, normal time

04.11.26 - Year 7 art trip 1

05.11.26 - PD day



Welcome

As we approach the end of another busy week at CHSG, we have been marking World Mental Health Day, which takes place tomorrow, Saturday 10 October. In assemblies this week, we have been thinking about the important part we all play in looking after one another's wellbeing and creating a school community in which everyone feels safe, valued and included.

One of our key messages has been about the impact of our words and actions on others. We have encouraged students to think carefully about gossip, rumours and the temptation to pass on information about other people. What might seem like a harmless comment can have a real impact on someone's confidence, friendships and mental health. Kindness is not simply about being friendly to others, but also about making thoughtful choices, particularly when someone is not there to hear what is being said about them. This is an important part of the Sisterhood we want to foster at CHSG.

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we were delighted to welcome two inspiring local community figures to school this week: Vanessa McCain, local councillor and CEO of People Arise Now, and Joseph Jeffers, founder of A.S.K.I., a community group supporting local residents. Both spoke passionately about their work and the difference they are making locally. Our students had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions and explore how individuals can bring about positive change in their communities. We are very grateful to Vanessa and Joseph for sharing their experiences and inspiring our young people.



We have also been celebrating the talents of our students, with Thursday evening's Piano Salon providing a lovely opportunity for our young musicians to share their hard work and musical accomplishments. Thank you to everyone involved in organising and supporting the event.

A reminder to parents and carers that our short, recorded Parents' Information Evening presentations are still available to view on the school website, here: [Parent Information videos](#). These contain useful information from Heads of Year about the year ahead, including key dates, expectations and important milestones. The videos will be taken down next week, so please do take the opportunity to watch your daughter's year group presentation if you have not already done so.

As we head towards the final weeks of this half term, I would encourage families to continue conversations at home about friendships, kindness and looking out for one another. Small acts of consideration can make a tremendous difference to someone's day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
Mrs Crump
Assistant Headteacher

Reporting an Absence

If your daughter is unable to attend school, let us know on each day of absence using one of the following methods:

- Arbor Parent app
- Telephone: 020 8647 8294 and select option 1 for attendance, appointments and lateness. If the Attendance Officer is unavailable, please leave a voicemail with the relevant details including your daughter's name, tutor group.

Please note that we are unable to respond individually to every absence notification or request to confirm that a student has arrived at school.

Checking Attendance

Parents and carers can check their daughter's attendance on the Parent Arbor app.

Train to Teach**Webinar**

Thursday 15th October 2026
5-6 pm

Find out about our training programme, and how to apply for September 2027

To book a free place email
RFA@glenthorne.sutton.sch.uk
or click the link in the bio



In support of
breast cancer now
Research today for a brighter tomorrow

Let's come together as a school to support
Wear it Pink and help **raise awareness** of breast cancer.

Years 7 - 11

Wear a **pink accessory**

**Sixth Form and Staff**

Wear an **item of clothing** that is pink



BE KIND



SHOW SUPPORT



RAISE AWARENESS



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every little bit of pink helps to make a big difference.





YEAR 7

It is hard to believe that we are almost at half-term already. It has been a really busy and fruitful time: settling in, joining clubs after school and at break time, and students learning how to live and breathe the school values of community, accountability, resilience, empowerment, and sisterhood. Indeed, these are not merely words on our website; they are embodied in every decision staff and students make. They form the bedrock of our behaviour, our hopes, and our dreams for all who are at CHSG.

We love to celebrate successes, and it is not only, as I mentioned at the Information Evening, the silverware and trophies and wins we celebrate. It is the daily triumph of just packing one's bag, remembering one's homework, getting to school on time, navigating friendships that evolve, and then working around this when things don't quite go to plan. That is how everyday greatness is built: doing ordinary things well and learning from disappointments. These become our habits; our habits become our life. Our Year 7s have begun so very well, and we are very proud of them as we observe these habits becoming embedded and creating the scaffolds that enable them to become independent. That said, we do have a student who achieved something wonderful recently. We are very happy to share that Varu won the runner-up medal in the Surrey U15 Girls' Doubles B Section Badminton on Sunday, 4th October. Well done!

A reminder from me to please speak with your daughters about crossing the road sensibly and responsibly at the correct points. We have had some students run across the road, which puts motorists (and themselves) in danger. Please do remind them about safety for all.

We will be heading into exams in just over a month. You will receive information before half-term from the school, explaining exactly how this works. If you have any general, non-subject-specific queries regarding these exams, please liaise directly with your daughter's tutor, who will be reiterating everything with their Form Groups to make sure all students understand the process.

We have reached the end of the applications for leadership positions. It was really lovely reading through each application and seeing how our students view leadership, responsibility, and caring for others. We thank every student for putting their name forward; positions will be announced in due course. I do wish to reiterate that while holding positions is lovely, and it is good to be recognised, true leadership doesn't always need to have a badge or a title to lead; it is about one life influencing another. In that respect, all students lead in some way.

And with that, I wish you a fun-filled weekend, with a time to relax with family and friends.

Mrs Macallister
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

As we come towards the end of our first half term in Year 8, it has been pleasing to see the students continuing to settle into the routines and engage with their learning. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the positive contributions students are making to our school community and encourage everyone to maintain this momentum throughout the rest of this half term and into next.

It has been great to see students demonstrating our school values through their behaviour, attitude, and interactions with others. Whether this is through showing kindness to their peers, contributing positively in lessons, or taking pride in their achievements, these small actions make a real difference.

As we approach the half-term break, it is important that students remain focused and continue to give their best effort in every lesson. Good organisation, punctuality, completing homework, and asking for help when needed are all essential habits that support academic progress.

I would also like to remind students of the importance of respectful behaviour, both in and out of school as well as online. Treating others with kindness, resolving disagreements appropriately, and making responsible decisions and choices support the creation of a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in helping our Year 8 students develop confidence, resilience, and independence. Working together, we can ensure that students continue to make progress academically, socially, and personally.

I look forward to celebrating further successes as the term continues.

Ms Brice
Head of Year 8



This week I have been thinking a lot about our students online presence. For Year 9 girls, phones are often where friendships, identity, entertainment and school life all come together. The goal is not to remove phones completely, but to help the students to develop healthy, safe and balanced habits before GCSE pressures increase.

At CHSG, online safety and a phone-free school environment are recognised as important parts of safeguarding and student wellbeing.

10 Practical Tips for Parents

1. Delay Access, Not Conversation Many parents focus on controls and restrictions, but the most powerful tool is regular conversation. Ask questions such as: • Who do you enjoy talking to online? • What social media are people using at the moment? • Have you seen anything online recently that made you uncomfortable? • What would you do if someone sent you something upsetting? Aim for curiosity rather than interrogation.	2. Keep Phones Out of Bedrooms Overnight Sleep is one of the biggest casualties of smartphone use. Consider: • Charging phones downstairs overnight. • Setting a household "digital bedtime". • Using an alarm clock instead of a phone alarm. Most teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep, and late-night scrolling can significantly affect mood, attendance, concentration and resilience.
3. Agree Clear Family Rules Rather than making rules up as problems arise, create expectations together. For example: • No phones during family meals. • Homework completed before social media. • Phones away after a set time. • Parents know passwords and can check devices if concerned. Consistency is more important than strictness.	4. Monitor Social Media Without Spying Young people need some privacy, but they also need guidance. Parents should: • Know which apps their daughter is using. • Follow age ratings. • Check privacy settings regularly. • Discuss who they are communicating with. Explain that monitoring is about safety rather than a lack of trust.
5. Talk About What Is Real Online Year 9 girls are particularly vulnerable to comparing themselves with others. Remind them: • Most posts show highlights, not reality. • Filters and editing are common. • Follower counts do not determine worth. Online popularity is not the same as genuine friendship.	6. Teach Them to Pause Before Posting A useful rule is: <i>"Would I be happy for my parents, teacher and future employer to see this?"</i> Encourage them to think before posting: • Photos • Comments • Screenshots • Videos • Messages sent in anger
7. Be Alert to Friendship Issues Many friendship difficulties now continue beyond the school day. Warning signs include: • Becoming anxious when notifications arrive. • Constant checking of messages. • Exclusion from group chats. • Sudden changes in mood after using a phone. • Reluctance to attend school. If concerns arise, encourage your daughter to speak to a trusted adult.	8. Encourage Positive Online Activities Not all screen time is equal. Support activities such as: • Learning a language • Music and creativity • Revision resources • Podcasts • Coding • Reading • Educational videos Help them use technology to create rather than only consume.
9. Model Healthy Phone Habits Yourself Children notice adult behaviour. Parents can: • Put phones away during conversations. • Avoid scrolling while watching TV together. I'm terrible at this! • Demonstrate balance between online and offline life. The habits we model are often more influential than the rules we set.	10. Keep Communication Open The most important message a teenager can hear is: <i>"If something goes wrong online, you won't get into trouble for telling me."</i> Young people are far more likely to seek help if they believe they will be listened to rather than judged.



Key Messages for Year 9 Parents

By Year 9, the aim is to help your daughter:

- Manage her own screen time responsibly.
- Think critically about social media.
- Build healthy friendships online and offline.
- Protect her privacy.
- Use technology safely and positively.
- Maintain a healthy balance between school, sleep, family life and online activity.

A useful phrase for me as a parents has been: "My job is not to control every click, but to help my child make good choices when I'm not there."

I hope you find this useful and that we can continue to work together to keep the girls safe when they are online

Careers trip to KPMG



Forty Year 9s and four staff visited KPMG headquarters; one of 'the big 4' financial services firms, based in the impressive Canary Wharf.

It provided an excellent venue for students to learn about all things to do with accountancy, risk assessment as well as sustainability. We had a tour of the swanky glass building, networked with six mentors and developed presentation skills in front of peers through a simulated group activity: improving the marketing of a drink aimed at teenagers through AI. The students impressed us that they rose to the challenge with confidence in delivery. Thank you all for your energy and innovative ideas. Thank you Mrs Durrett, Ms West, Ms Chaudery for supporting.

Mrs Hrouda careers lead

Going to KPMG was so fun, we saw many landmarks on the way and the building itself is beautiful. Everyone at KPMG was so kind and helpful and I had so much fun spending time with friends. - Adya M 9S1

I went on the KPMG trip this week and it was absolutely amazing! I gained a lot from the trip, such as important and useful skills, and how different skills are important in different scenarios. For example, I learnt the interesting fact that although intelligence is an extremely important skill, confidence is even more important and gains you advantages and more opportunities. I also learnt that humility is very important in life, but when in an interview, applying for a job, etc., you should not be too humble as it will make it less likely for you to get that job/ pass the interview. Something I found surprising was that public speaking is the biggest fear on the planet! I had a great time and it was very fun! - Aesha M 9S3

Many thanks for your continued support

Brs N Devaney
Head of Year 9



It has been another positive week for Year 10. This week, our Year 10 assembly provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils who have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. We would like to congratulate all of those pupils who have worked hard to complete the various elements of the award. Their commitment, resilience and willingness to challenge themselves are qualities that we are very proud to see developing across the year group. We would strongly encourage pupils who have enjoyed the Bronze Award to consider signing up for the Silver Award. This provides another excellent opportunity to develop independence, resilience and teamwork, while challenging pupils to step further outside their comfort zones. Please speak to Mr Boulter if you are interested.



Our assembly this week focused on the importance of doing the small things right, every day. As pupils move through Year 10 and the demands of their GCSE courses increase, it is often the small, consistent choices that make the biggest difference. Being punctual, bringing the correct equipment, completing homework, listening carefully, revising regularly and maintaining a positive attitude may seem like small things individually, but together they create the habits that lead to success.

We have encouraged pupils to reflect on the idea that success is not simply about making a huge effort occasionally, but about consistently getting the basics right and making positive choices every day. Developing these habits now will help pupils not only with their GCSEs, but also with the wider skills and responsibilities they will take with them beyond school.

As we approach the final week of the term, we would like to recognise the continued effort and positive attitude we are seeing across Year 10. There is still plenty of opportunity for pupils to make progress, challenge themselves and finish the term strongly. We encourage them to continue to take pride in their work, make the most of every opportunity and remember that their daily habits really do matter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our pupils to remain focused, organised and positive. We are very proud of Year 10 and the progress they are making, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, resilience and independence.

We hope you and your families have a lovely weekend.

Mr Osborne
Head of Year 10

Miss Cardoso
Assistant Head of Year 10



Carshalton High School for Girls

SIXTH FORM

Open Evening

Wednesday 11th November 2026
5.00pm to 7.00pm





Well done to all our Year 11 students for completing another week. It has been a particularly hard and tiring term for everyone, but we are now almost at the end of the first term and should take a moment to recognise how much progress our students have made.

With the colder and shorter days approaching, we would like to remind students of the importance of wearing appropriate clothing and footwear to school. Students should have durable, suitable footwear that can withstand all seasons and weather conditions. As the weather becomes colder, we also encourage students to wear jackets or coats when necessary. Please ensure that these are in line with the CHSG uniform colours and expectations. Finally, a reminder that unnatural hair colours are not permitted under the school's uniform policy. Any student currently wearing an unnatural hair colour must have this washed out by Monday.

As we approach the final GCSE examinations, as well as the first Year 11 mock examinations next week, we appreciate that parents and carers may have questions or concerns about how best to support their daughters at home. With this in mind, we have found an insightful webinar hosted by Emily Hughes, an ex-teacher, author of GCSE Survival Guide for Parents and co-founder of Parent Guide to Education. The webinar, The Secret to GCSE Success, will take place on Wednesday 14 October at 7:00pm. During the session, parents and carers will discover:

- Simple, stress-free revision strategies — with no nagging required!
- How to create a realistic revision plan using an online planning tool
- Ways to keep teenagers motivated
- What parents can do to support their child, and what to avoid

If you are interested in attending, please sign up using the following link:

<https://parentguidetoeducation.com/reg/gcse-success/2246>

We hope that this session will help parents and carers feel more confident and less anxious about supporting their daughters during this important period. Most importantly, we hope it will help students feel well supported at home and able to remain focused in school.

With mock examinations beginning on Monday, students should now be engaging in focused and purposeful revision. They should prioritise subjects in which they may be less confident, as well as key subjects that will support their intended post-16 pathways. However, it is equally important that students do not reach burnout. We recommend using the Pomodoro technique, which involves: 25 minutes of focused revision → 5-minute break → 25 minutes of revision → repeat

Revision is often most effective when students work with full concentration in short, focused bursts. This means removing distractions wherever possible, particularly phones and social media. Students should also be encouraged to take regular breaks, get some fresh air and look after their overall wellbeing. If your daughter is struggling physically or emotionally, please remember that the examination period can feel particularly stressful, and ensuring that she has time to rest and reset is just as important as revision.

We wish all of Year 11 the very best of luck with their examinations next week. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment and look forward to seeing them approach their mocks with confidence.

Have a lovely and restful weekend.

Mrs Pearce
Head of Year 11

Miss Nedjai
Assistant Head of Year 11



YEAR 12

As we approach the completion of the first half term in Year 12, we wanted to congratulate the cohort on their positive and proactive start to Sixth Form life. Students have been involved in the school community in various ways, such as:

- Applying for Student Leadership roles of responsibilities.
- Delivering sections of the whole school online assemblies on different themes and events.
- Starting their own clubs for younger years exploring a variety of interests.
- Looking at how to gain and enhance skills for the future; even considering future professions that may not exist yet and how they could adapt to the needs of the jobs/careers.
- Maximising the 1:1 conversations during Academic Mentoring sessions, on Thursday mornings, with their form tutors.
- Taking part in Senior Maths Challenge after school on Wednesday.
- Visiting the TripAdvisor Headquarters at Liverpool Street to get an insight into the world of enterprise.

We encourage students to reflect on this half term and consider what may need to adjust when resuming in November. We continue to work on our Sixth Form VESPA mindset, helping students to have a clear focus of what they need to do in and out of lessons, as well as creating habits of success that can help them in various situations.

We will celebrate the end of the half term with a bring and share breakfast, next Thursday 15th October.

We would be grateful to hear back from you and how you feel the start of Year 12 has gone - [Year 12 Parents Feedback - Fill out form](#)

As always, many thanks for your continual support.

Miss Ishola
Head of Year 12

YEAR 13

We are delighted that our first Year 13 UCAS application has been submitted! This is an exciting milestone and marks the beginning of the application process getting underway. We look forward to seeing more students submit their applications over the coming days.

During this week's assembly, we also celebrated the achievements of students who received their SSAT Gold Standard Student Leadership Accreditation. This recognises their commitment to leadership and the positive contributions they have made to our school community. Well done to everyone involved!

Upcoming Sixth Form Events

- Thursday 15th October – Sixth Form Breakfast: During tutor time, students are invited to bring in food items to share with their peers. This is a lovely opportunity to come together as a Sixth Form community.
- Friday 16th October – Mufti Day: Students can wear their own clothes in exchange for a £1 contribution towards the Year 13 Prom in June 2027.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is wonderful to see Year 13 making progress with their future plans while continuing to contribute positively to Sixth Form life.

Miss Robinson
Head of Year 13



SIXTH FORM BREAKFAST

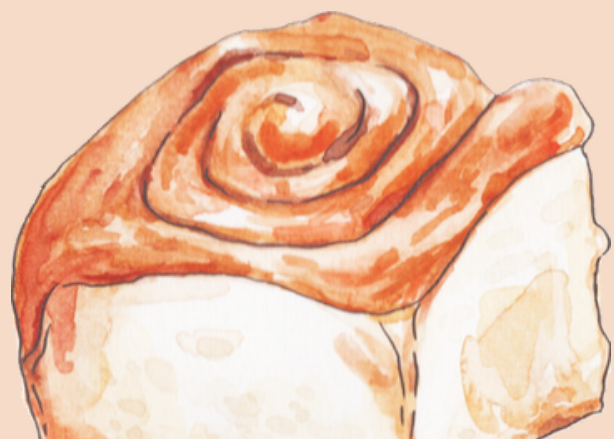
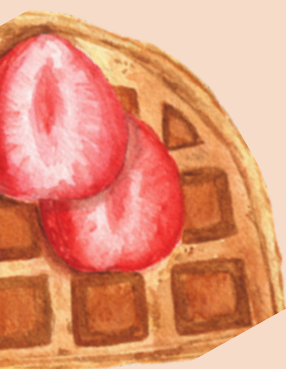
Thursday 15th October

&

MUFTI DAY!

Friday 16th October

Bring in £1 to help us raise money
for Prom!!





Curriculum Focus: Maths

All CHSG Maths students are on a 5 year journey to their GCSEs – this means we start in Year 7 building the skills required, and then returning to topics at more challenging levels of difficulty using our spiral curriculum approach.

Year 7

Year 7 begin with Unit 1: Number, which will consolidate and extend their primary school maths, ensuring that challenge is built in along the way. Following this, they begin Unit 2: Equations, Identities & Formulae, which for some students will be their first experience of algebra, and for others, extending and stretching their existing knowledge.

Year 8

Year 8 start the year with Unit 8: Perimeter, Area & Volume, which develops their spatial awareness and understanding of shape and geometry. They then continue onto Unit 9: Solving Equations, which is a return to algebra, and will stretch the skills already acquired in Year 7.

Year 9

Year 9 begins with Unit 15: Number – building on the work they have done in Year 7. We revisit core topics but also introduce new concepts such as Surds. They then move onto Unit 16: Algebra which builds on their learning in Year 7 and 8, including more complex algebraic manipulation and solving equations.

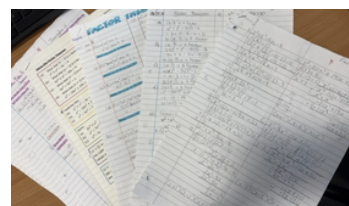
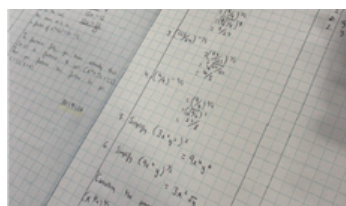
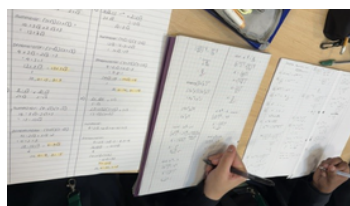
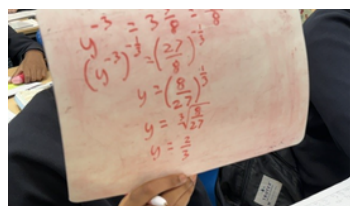
Year 10

Year 10 start the year with Unit 23: Equations & Inequalities, which supports them to apply previously learnt skills, and also developing into working with inequalities. Unit 24: Probability is next, which will support understanding of chance, and prepare them for GCSE questions where they will be expected to be able to solve problems with Venn diagrams, and tree diagrams.

Year 10 Further Maths

This year marks an exciting new chapter for our Maths department with the introduction of **Further Maths for Year 10 students**. Following a competitive entrance assessment, a group of talented mathematicians was selected to take part in weekly after-school lessons every Wednesday.

Despite finishing a full day of school, these students willingly stay until 4:30pm to practice some technical mathematical concepts. Their commitment, maturity and enthusiasm have been truly impressive. They have consistently engaged with challenging homework and demonstrated a genuine passion for learning beyond the classroom.



So far, the group has tackled advanced topics including algebraic long division, binomial expansion and solving exponential equations. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and the resilience they have shown in embracing these demanding concepts. Well done to all involved!

Year 11

Year 11 are on the final countdown to GCSE with the last few units to work through before the course is complete. They begin with Unit 30: Further Algebra which covers the most challenging skills in algebra for both Foundation tier and Higher tier.

Year 11 Revision

The Year 11 revision is well and truly underway with Morning Maths, practice paper homework and revision timetables in the run up to their Mock exams in October/November.

Well done to all our Year 11 students who have been attending the "Back of the Paper Club" in such impressive numbers every Wednesday in J43 with Ms Stanley and Ms Mansoor. Pupils have been tackling challenging, thought-provoking problem-solving questions with support from our experienced Year 12 mathematicians. It has been fantastic to see so



many Year 11 students taking ownership of their revision and demonstrating such commitment to their learning. We are incredibly impressed with your dedication and effort. Keep up the great work!

Year 12

Students begin year 12 with Algebra units which revisit Year 11 GCSE grade 8-9 content but also stretch into the A level material that is new to them – for example, polynomial division and advanced quadratic work. In applied Maths students are well into their Mechanics studies, and have completed their first unit on Kinematics, and are about to start work on Forces and Newton's laws.

Year 13

In Year 13 we have been revisiting Kinematics with our more advanced unit, focussing on motion in 2 dimensions. In Pure Maths students have been developing their Algebra skills to include partial fractions, algebraic proof and deepening their understanding of functions and transformations.

Year 12 & 13 Enrichment

Maths Challenge Awards

The 2026-27 UKMT Challenge Season got off to a fantastic start last week with the Mathematical Challenge for Girls. We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of the following students:

- 🏆 Distinction Award: Yi Nuo C (Year 13)
- 🏆 Merit Award: Isabella DL (Year 12)

These awards recognise exceptional mathematical talent, problem-solving ability and perseverance. We are incredibly proud of all our students who took part.

The first major competition of the year, the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, will take place on Wednesday 7th October. All our Sixth Form Mathematicians (as well as a small number of Year 11 students) will take part, putting their mathematical fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills to the test through 25 challenging multiple-choice questions completed in 90 minutes.



We wish all participants the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating their achievements.

Maths News

Outstanding GCSE Maths Results

This summer's GCSE Maths results were among the best our school has ever achieved. An impressive one in four pupils attained a Grade 7 or above, placing us in the top 15% of schools nationally and achieving a rate three times higher than the national average.

To celebrate this remarkable success and inspire the next cohort of GCSE mathematicians, the Maths Department has created a 'Maths Hall of Fame' display showcasing the outstanding achievements of our students. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, resilience and dedication.

Building on this success, we are committed to maintaining this momentum and striving for even greater achievements in the years ahead.



Sparx Maths

YEAR	HOMEWORK DAY
YEAR 7	Thursday
YEAR 8	Tuesday
YEAR 9	Wednesday
YEAR 10	Monday

SPARX Maths

Last week saw the launch of Sparx Maths for all pupils in Years 7 to 10 as part of our homework programme. While there were a few technical challenges initially, these have now been fully resolved and the platform is running smoothly. Year 7 pupils were introduced to Sparx Maths by their teachers and have already begun engaging with their first assignments, which were due this week.



A special mention goes to Year 10, who are currently leading the Sparx Maths leaderboard. Their enthusiasm, commitment and excellent start have set an impressive standard, providing some tough competition for the rest of the school. We look forward to seeing how the leaderboard develops over the coming weeks.

To support students with their Sparx Maths homework, we are also running our Maths Clinic Homework Club. The clinic provides a welcoming space where students can receive help with homework, ask questions, build confidence and complete extra practice with support from Maths staff. The club runs from 3:10pm to 4:10pm in Rooms J43 and J45:

- Mondays: Years 7 & 8, with Miss Omar
- Tuesdays: Years 9 & 10, with Mrs Lygonska

We encourage all students to take advantage of this valuable resource.

Parents can support their child with Sparx Maths in a few simple ways:

- Encourage their child to try the questions independently first.
- If they get stuck, they should watch the support video for that question.
- Remind them to write down their workings while solving problems.
- Provide a quiet space for homework and help them start early.
- If they're struggling, encourage them to contact the teacher for guidance.
- If they're consistently struggling encourage their child to go to Maths Clinic on Monday/Tuesday 3.10pm to 4.10 pm

Parents also receive weekly emails with homework progress and a link to the Parent Portal where they can see completion details.

Each question includes a support video to help students work through problems themselves.

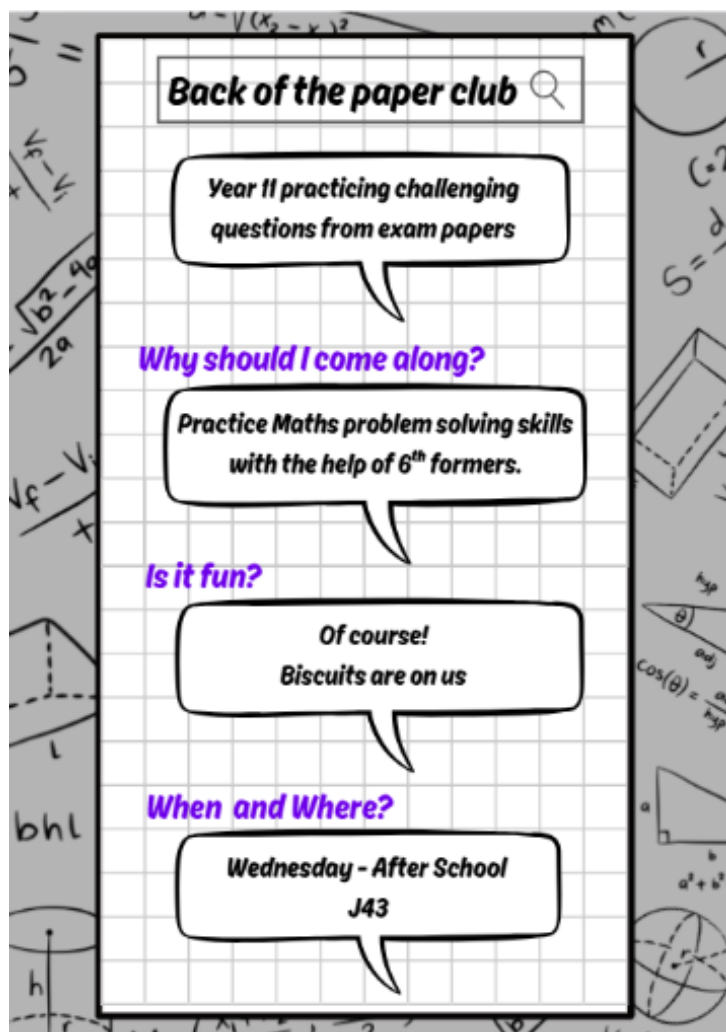
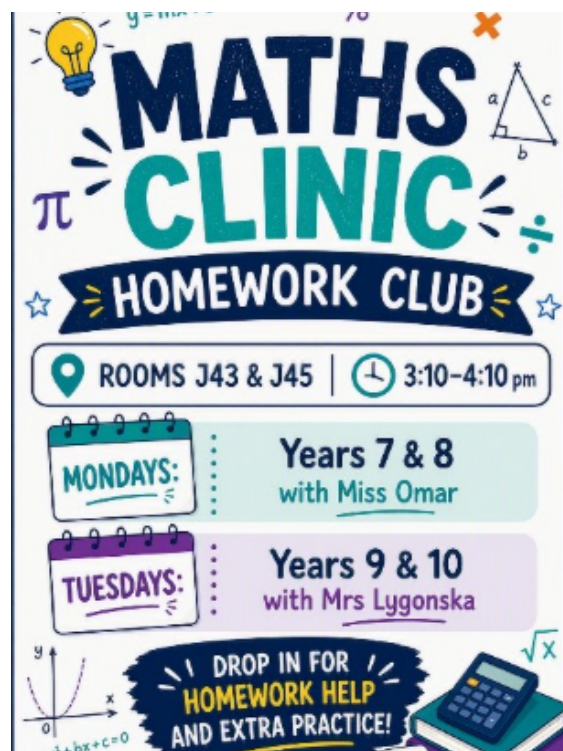
A parent's guide to Sparx Maths

Sparx Maths - A parent's guide to Sparx Maths
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3itSb5PS7YQ>

Maths Clubs

- Year 12 and 13 Pure Maths Club: supporting our A Level students to solidify key knowledge

Mrs Foley & the Maths team





Missing Episodes – Why They Matter

When we hear the words “missing child”, we may imagine a young person who has disappeared for a long time. In safeguarding, however, a *missing episode* can be much shorter. What matters is that a child or young person’s whereabouts are unknown and the circumstances may place them at risk.

Young people may go missing for many different reasons. They may be upset following an argument, struggling with difficulties at home or school, meeting friends without permission, or simply feel that they need to get away.

Sometimes, however, going missing can be connected to criminal or sexual exploitation, unsafe relationships, substance misuse, serious youth violence or other forms of harm.

Why are missing episodes taken seriously?

The longer a young person is away from safe adults and their whereabouts are unknown, the greater the opportunity for someone to harm or exploit them.

Of particular concern are changes or patterns, such as:

- going missing or staying out unexpectedly when this has not happened before;
- increasingly returning home late or not saying where they have been;
- repeatedly going to particular locations or travelling significant distances;
- returning with unexplained money, clothing, phones or other items;
- becoming secretive about new friends or older acquaintances;
- unexplained injuries, changes in mood or behaviour, substance use or increasing disengagement from school;
- receiving unexplained lifts or being collected by people parents or carers do not know.

A single missing episode does not necessarily mean that a young person is being exploited. However, repeated episodes, changing behaviour or unexplained patterns can be important warning signs and should never simply be dismissed as teenage behaviour.

If your child goes missing, try to keep communication open even when you are frightened or angry. When they return, the most important first questions are often:

“Are you safe?”

“Is anyone hurting, frightening or pressuring you?”

“Is there somewhere or someone you are worried about?”

Try to establish where they have been, who they were with and how they travelled. Share concerns about unexplained or repeated missing episodes with school and, where appropriate, the police. Small pieces of information that appear insignificant on their own can become important when professionals identify a wider pattern.

Getting help

If a child is missing and you are concerned about their safety, contact the police on 101, or 999 where there is an immediate risk of harm.

www.missingpeople.org.uk provides confidential advice and support to young people and families affected by missing episodes. Young people can call or text 116 000.